

Picture of the Week: Secretary of Defense reviews plutonium operations at the Lab

September 22, 2016



Secretary of Defense reviews plutonium operations at Los Alamos National Laboratory

U.S. Secretary of Defense, Ash Carter (center) Los Alamos National Laboratory Director Charlie McMillan (right) and Bob Webster, Principal Associate Director for Weapons Programs, in the pit casting area of the Laboratory's Plutonium Facility 4 (PF-4), the nation's only plutonium science, technology and manufacturing center.

"A strong plutonium science and manufacturing capability is essential to the U.S. nuclear deterrent and cannot be underestimated," said Carter. "I want to express my sincere appreciation for the difficult and vitally important work done at Los Alamos to help assure the development, assessment and security of the nuclear triad."

“The Los Alamos Plutonium Facility is a unique and essential national security capability,” said McMillan. “The Secretary’s visit provided him the opportunity to see firsthand how Los Alamos National Laboratory uses innovative science and technology to make our nation and the world a safer place.”

The pit casting area is where molten plutonium is shaped into a pit, the plutonium core of a nuclear weapon.

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